TEXT: Phil.4:8 Whatsoever things are true.

THEME: Loyalty to Truth.

INTRO.:The meaning of the word "truth".

I.The Dictionary Definition.

1.The quality or state of being true.

a,conformity to fact or reality.

b. conformity to rule

c. fidelity; constancy; steadfastness; faithfulness

d. the practice of speaking what is true; veracity

2.The real state of things; fact; verity; reality

3. A true thing; a verified fact; a true statement; an established principle; a fixed law

4. Righteousness; true religion

II.The Old Testament Conception of Truth

1.אֱמֶת ::Firmness; steadfastness; faithfulness

2. Jehovah as the God of truth

Nu.23:19 The word of Jehovah thru Baalam to Baalak "God is not a man that he should lie; Neither the son of man that he should repent; Hath he said and will he not do it? Or hath he not spoken and will he not make it good?"

N.T. 2 Tim. 2:13 If we are faithless, he abideth faithful; for he cannot deny himself.

Ps.89:34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

3.Truthfulness demanded of man

Prov.12:19 The lip of truth shall be established forever but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

Prov.12:22 Lying lips are an abomination to Jehovah, but they that deal truly are his delight.

N.T. Eph. 4:25 Wherefore putting away falsehood speak ye truth each one with his neighbor for we are members one of another.

Zech.8:16 Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor.

Exod.20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

4. The word TRUTH associated with righteousness and justice and mercy and peace.

2. Loyalty to Truth.

Ps.85;10 Mercy and truth are met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth springeth out of the earth;
And righteousness hath looked down from heaven.

Ps.89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of thy Throne,
Lovingkindness and truth go before thy face.

Exod.34:6 And Jehovah passed by before him and proclaimed, "Jehovah, Jehovah, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

5. The Word of God and the Truth identical.

Ps.33:4 For the word of Jehovah is right
And all his work is done in faithfulness.

Ps.119:160 The sum of thy word is truth.

III. The New Testament Conception of Truth.

1. Root-idea--Reality as opposed to mere appearance or false pretense.
Conformity to reality
Expression of it--veracity
The moral and spiritual Reality personalized in Jesus Christ.

2. In the Pauline writings Truth is equivolent to God's revealed will. Truth and Gospel are synonimous but not identical.

3. In John's Gospel it is the Absolute Divine Reality

a. Truth is incarnated and personalized in Jesus Christ.

John1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.

Jn.14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jn 1:17 Grace and truth came thru Jesus Christ.

b. This truth he imparts to his disciples

Jn.8:31 If ye abide in my word, then are ye truly my disciples.

3Loyalty to Truth

III.3 c. When Christ departs, he sends the Spirit of Truth
Jn.14:17 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth.

BODY I-The Truth, associated as it is with righteousness and justice and grace and peace, is the very groundwork and essence of Christian being.

1. As an intellectual quality.
It strengthens the mind and gives the only satisfying explanation of the universe.

2. As a moral power. Subjectively
Jn.8:32 And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.
Jn.17:17-19 Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth. As thou didst send me into the world, even so sent I them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in the truth.

Objectively as a moral vocation.
1. Something to be known
Jn.8:32 Ye shall know the truth.
2. Something to be believed
Jn.8:45f But because I say the truth, ye believe me not.
3. Something to be done.
Jn.3:21 But he that doeth the truth cometh to the light, that his works may be made manifest, that they have been wrought in God.

4. Loyalty to Truth.

3. Truth as a spiritual illumination.
   a. the voice of Christ
      Jn.18:37 Every one that is of the truth. heareth my voice.
   b. The Spirit of Truth as the guide into all truth
      Jn: 16:13 Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth shall come, he shall guide you into all the truth.

II. The demands of loyalty to truth.
   1. A high and sustained personal effort.
   2. A constant exercising of the will
   3. A vital activity of spiritually entering farther and yet farther into the Kingdom.

CONCLUSION

May our attitude and spirit be found in the words of Paul
Eph.6:14 Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truthand having put on the breast-plate of righteousness and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

a personal + intimate relationship
a sincere, noble + self-sacrificing one
a steadfastness + faithfulness to duty